



STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

July 18, 2005

Pamela J. Rasmussen,
Team Lead, Siting & Routing
Xcel Energy
PO Box 8
Eau Claire, WI 54702-0008

Re: Minor Alteration Application for the Expansion of the Eastwood Substation and for the Wilmarth to Eastwood Line Upgrade, located in Blue Earth County

Dear Ms. Rasmussen:

On June 8, 2005, Xcel Energy applied to the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (MEQB) for a Minor Alteration Permit to convert the existing Wilmarth-Eastwood-Rapidan 69 kV transmission line to 115 kV between Wilmarth Substation and Eastwood Substation, which will include construction of approximately 0.5 miles of new 115 kV transmission line; expansion of the existing Eastwood Substation; and conversion of the voltage of the Eastwood Substation from 69 kV to 115 kV. The proposed project is located in Blue Earth County in the City of Mankato and in Lime and Mankato Townships.

MEQB mailed notice on June 14, 2005 to those persons on the Energy Facilities general notification list and posted notice on the MEQB website. Comments were due to the MEQB by July 1, 2005. MEQB did not receive any comments on the project.

Due to changes by the Minnesota Legislature enacted on July 1, 2005 (see S.F. 1368, transferring generation plant siting and transmission line routing authority from the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board to the Public Utilities Commission), the PUC is now responsible for determining whether to authorize the Minor Alteration or determine the project requires a full permitting decision.

Based on staff and Commission review of the application, and given there were no public comments received following the notice, the Commission has determined that the project qualifies as a Minor Alteration and, in accordance with its authority under Minnesota Rules 4400.3820 subpart 3, authorizes Xcel Energy to proceed with the proposed project as described in its application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Burt Haar".

Burt Haar, Executive Secretary

www.puc.state.mn.us